

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /098 W
-----081443Z 072451 /53

R 081002Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8348
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0419

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CT, SU, LY
SUBJECT: CAE/LIBYAN/SUDANESE RELATIONS

REF: BANGUI 363

SUMMARY: CAE RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND THE SUDAN CONTINUE TO FOLLOW A CONFUSED COURSE. LIBYAN DELEGATIONS VISITING BANGUI HAVE MADE PROGRESS ON TWO OF THE JOINT PROJECTS AGREED TO DURING QADDAFI'S VISIT LAST OCTOBER BUT THREE OTHERS ARE STILL DORMANT. THE CAE HAS REPLIED POSITIVELY TO A MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP FROM NIMERI BUT HAS ALSO FOLLOWED UP ITS DENIAL OF ALLEGED SUDANESE CHARGES (REF-TEL) WITH AMOVEMENT OF A DC-3 LOAD OF TROOPS TO THE SUDANESE BORDER. END SUMMARY.

1. LIBYAN ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PARTY DELEGATIONS ARRIVED IN BANGUI IN MID-FEBRUARY. ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS WERE TOUGH BUT RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT COMPANIES IN AGRICULTURE
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AND IN IMPORT/EXPORT. IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYA WILL UNILATERALLY CONTRIBUTE ENGOUH MONEY TO PUT THESE TWO COMPANIES INTO OPERATION. FOR EXAMPLE, LIBYA HAS OFFERED \$2 MILLION FOR A SUGAR FACTORY PROJECT, WHICH IS ONLY A FRACTION OF THE TOTAL COST. THERE WAS APPARENTLY NO PROGRESS TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT BANKING OR MINING COMPANIES NOR THE AIRLINE. (SEE BANGUI

2086). THE LIBYAN PARTY DELEGATION WAS WARMLY RECEIVED
AND LIBYA USED THE OCCASION TO DISTRIBUTE ANTI-EGYPTIAN
PROPAGANDA.

2. SUDANESE PRESIDENT NIMERI SENT A MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP
BACK WITH THE CAE REPRESENTATIVE AT THE MEETING OF THE
SUDANESE SOCIALIST UNION IN KHARTOUM AT THE END OF JANUARY,
AND THE GOCAE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED IN THE
SUDANESE CHARGE TO REPLY WITH RECIPROCAL FEELINGS OF GOODWILL.
PAIRED WITH THIS, HOWEVER, IS THE STRONG GOCAE DENIAL OF
ALLEGED SUDANESE CHARGES THAT IT IS COOPERATING WITH LIBYA
AGAINST THE SUDAN (REFTEL) AND THE MOVEMENT OF CAE TROOPS TO
BIRAO (23E, 10N). LATTER OCCURRED MARCH 4 AND IS NOW
COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN BANGUI. IT APPARENTLY CONSISTED ONLY
Y
OF ONE DC-3 FLIGHT. PURPOSE WAS PRESUMABLY NOT TO TRY TO
STOP RUMORED INCURSIONS FROM CAE INTO SUDAN, BECAUSE AS
FAR AS SUDANESE EMBASSY HERE KNOWS, THESE HAVE EVER BEEN
DISCUSSED WITH THE GOCAE.

3. COMMENT: SOME OBSERVERS SEE A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE
SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS WITH LIBYA AND THE
STIFFENED CAE POSTURE TOWARD THE SUDAN. WE ARE NOT SO
SURE. EMPEROR BOKASSA IN HIS AUDIENCE WITH THE AMBASSADOR
FEBRUARY 26 TALKED OF HAVING (TRICKED) QADDAFI BY EMBRACING
ISLAM SHORTLY BEFORE DECLARING HIMSELF EMPEROR AND GIVING
UP ALL FIRST NAMES, INCLUDING MUSLIM ONES. GIVEN THIS
ATTITUDE, REPEATED CAE PROFESSIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE
SUDAN, AND CAE MILITARY WEAKNESS, WE DOUBT THAT THE CAE
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WILL IN FACT SUPPORT LIBYA IN ITS ANTI-SUDAN ACTIVITIES.
SMITH

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